

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2002

GARDINER FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED \$50,000 FEMA GRANT

KINGSTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded a \$49,608 grant to the Gardiner Fire department under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The grant was one of 389 awarded nationwide in the third round of grants for fiscal year 2002.

"We have all come to appreciate firefighters much more because of the extraordinary circumstances of last fall," said Hinchey. "But it's also important to understand the challenges they face on a daily basis. This grant will help the Gardiner Fire Department to better meet those challenges."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program was created by the 106th Congress and authorized for \$400 million over two years. A member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has strongly supported providing full funding for the program. Earlier this year, Hinchey sponsored a number of workshops across the 26th Congressional District to help fire departments with the grant application process.

Fire companies had the opportunity to apply for assistance in any of four categories: fire operations and fire safety, fire prevention, emergency medical services, and firefighting vehicles. Gardiner applied under the fire operations and firefighter safety category. The full cost of the department's proposal is \$55,120. The FEMA grant represents 90 percent of that amount.